

CHILD WELFARE AGENCY PUBLIC DISCLOSURE FORM

Date: 1/8/16

Agency Name: Washoe County Department of Social Services

Agency Address: P.O. Box 11130, Reno, NV 89520

Date of written notification to the Division of Child and Family Services and Legislative

Auditor: 12/7/15

Internal reference UNITY ID or Report Number: Case #1343639

Type of Report: ☐ 48 Hour Notice ☐ 15 Day Update ☒ 30 Day Update ☐ Final

☒ **Child Fatality** **Date of Death:** 12/7/15

☐ **Near Fatality** **Date of Near Fatality:**

☐ **Portions of information on this form have been withheld at the request of**
_____ **law enforcement.**

(Name of agency)

Information for Release:

A. Date of the notification to the child welfare agency of the death of a child:

12/7/15

B. Location of child at the time of death or near fatality (city/county):

Sparks/Washoe

C. A summary of the report of abuse or neglect and a factual description of the contents of the report:

Infant was found unresponsive by the parent while co-sleeping. Emergency services responded to the 911 call to find the infant not breathing. The infant was transported to a local hospital where she was pronounced deceased.

D. The date of birth and gender of child:

9/12/15; female

E. The date that the child suffered the fatality or near fatality:

12/7/15

F. The cause of the fatality or near fatality, if such information has been determined:

Undetermined pending autopsy.

G. Whether the agency had any contact with the child or a member of the child's family or household before the fatality or near fatality and, if so:

- (1) The frequency of any contact or communication with the child or a member of the child's family or household before the fatality or near fatality and the date on which the last contact or communication occurred before the fatality or near fatality;
- (2) Whether the agency which provides child welfare services provided any child welfare services to the child or to a member of the child's family or household before or at the time of the fatality or near fatality;
- (3) Whether the agency which provides child welfare services made any referrals for child welfare services for the child or for a member of the child's family or household before or at the time of the fatality or near fatality;
- (4) Whether the agency which provides child welfare services took any other actions concerning the welfare of the child before or at the time of the fatality or near fatality; and
- (5) A summary of the status of the child's case at the time of the fatality or near fatality, including, without limitation, whether the child's case was closed by the agency which provides child welfare services before the fatality or near fatality and, if so, the reasons that the case was closed.

1/5/2008 – unsubstantiated for child abuse or neglect leading to fatality of 2 month old who was smothered while co-sleeping on the couch. It was deemed an accidental death and the parent was referred for counseling to address grief and loss.

3/2/2011 – unsubstantiated for environmental neglect related to mother's substance abuse. A new report was opened on 3/29/11.

3/29/2011 – court substantiated for neglect after a sibling was not picked up on time and whereabouts of the mother were unknown. The sibling was placed into foster care while the parents worked a case plan to include substance abuse treatment. The child was reunified with the mother and the case was closed in 2013.

09/15/2015 – unsubstantiated for substance exposure to infant twins after twins tested positive at birth for cocaine. Confirmation occurred with a public health nurse who went to the residence to provide safe sleep education and set up pack and plays. The mother was referred to community resources to access substance abuse treatment and the case was closed.

H. Whether the agency which provides child welfare services, in response to the fatality or near fatality:

- (1) Has provided or intends to provide child welfare services to the child or to a member of the child's family or household; and (2) Has made or intends to make a referral for child welfare services for the child or for a member of the child's family or household; and (3) Has taken or intends to take any other action concerning the welfare and safety of the child or any member of the child's family or household.

WCDSS continues to conduct a joint investigation with law enforcement and continues to assess the family. Siblings deemed safe. Grief and loss referrals provided have been provided for the family, other community resources will be referred as deemed appropriate.

NON-DISCLOSURE NOTICE

The following information must not be released (see Policy on Public Disclosure of Child Fatality and Near Fatality Information, page 4):

1) Information regarding the sibling(s) of a deceased child; 2) the name of the reporting party or individual making an allegation or referral will not be released; 3) if the disclosure of the information would adversely affect any pending investigation concerning a report (NRS 432B.290(3); 4) if the disclosure violates other federal or state law, including, but not limited to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), Family Educational and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), alcohol and drug abuse patient records (42 USC §290dd-2 and 42 CFR §212 (c)(6)), and any other applicable law.